

Appendix D

Planning Clearinghouse Forms

Appendix D contains examples of two forms that would be used by Yosemite National Park's "Planning Clearinghouse" to facilitate implementation of the *Merced River Plan* and ensure compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Planning Clearinghouse is a forum where park management, with the help of subject-matter experts, considers small- and medium-scale projects in the park, deliberates whether the project can proceed, modifies the project proposal as necessary, and assures compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, The Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and other applicable laws.

The existing *project proposal form* would be modified to contain questions intended to alert the project proponent, as well as park management, of the possible Wild and Scenic Rivers Act implications of the project. Any "yes" answers would require a brief explanation by the project proponent and would like trigger the use of the "questionnaire" form.

The new *questionnaire form* is intended to assist park management with their consideration of a project that could have Merced Wild and Scenic River implications. This form serves to highlight those portions of the *Merced River Plan* that may provide guidance to management as they deliberate whether to approve the project, suggest modifications to the project, and ensure compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

YOSE P-1

PROJECT NO. _____

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK EXAMPLE PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM PLANNING CLEARINGHOUSE CHECKLIST

PROJECT NAME: _____ LOCATION: _____

PROPOSED START DATE: _____ TARGET COMPLETION DATE: _____

ESTIMATED COST: \$_____

FUNDING SOURCE: _____(ONPS, DSC, WRO, WASO, YA, YCS, YF,
OTHER)

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN: _____

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED PROJECT: _____

PREPARED BY: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____

DATE: _____

DATE: _____

A. BACKGROUND

What is the purpose and need for the project? What problems will the project solve?

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe the project, including: detailed steps of site preparation, methods of construction, construction equipment, crew, staging areas, and utility connections. Briefly cite other alternatives considered.

C. IMPACTS ANALYSIS

The following checklist addresses possible effects of a proposed project. A brief explanation is required for all "Yes" answers. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including: off-site and on-site, cumulative and project-level, indirect and direct, and construction and operational effects.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):

	Yes	No
I. GENERAL RESOURCE CRITERIA AND CONSIDERATIONS		
Would the proposed action:		
a) Affect any existing structures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Disrupt any soils?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Add vehicle emissions to the air?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Increase existing noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Change any surface water flows/create runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Discharge into any surface waters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Remove any vegetation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Add any vegetation (revegetation, landscaping)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Cause invasion of exotic plants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Produce new light sources or shadows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Involve any potential release of hazardous substances (pesticide use, storage tanks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) Change existing traffic flow/circulation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) Change the amount of waste disposed (solid, hazardous, sewage)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n) Present any health and safety threats, including temporary?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o) Alter recreational activities (block trails, views)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p) Change available visitor services?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

II. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER CRITERIA AND CONSIDERATIONS

Would the proposed action:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Occur within ¼ mile of the Merced River? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Occur within 150-feet of the Merced River? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Would the proposed action be considered a 'water resources project' under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (i.e., projects that occur within the bed and banks of the Merced River)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be visible from the river or its banks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

D. MAPS

Maps are mandatory. The map(s) of the proposed project should be drawn approximately to scale and show the project area, construction staging areas, specific areas of soil disturbance, surrounding vegetation, distance from at least three landmarks, and the surrounding physical features (trees, buildings, rocks, roads, trails, etc.). Photographs are useful when describing and evaluating the project location.

E. PROCESS

Provide one original copy of the completed project proposal form (including maps and/or drawings, and one set of photographs) to the Environmental Compliance Officer. Maps and/or drawings shall be reduced to 8½" x 11" in size. The larger original maps and/or drawings shall also be submitted with the project proposal form.

The project will be discussed at the next scheduled Planning Clearinghouse meeting. The project proponent should plan to attend the Planning Clearinghouse meeting to answer questions and make clarifications about the project.

If you have questions or difficulties contact the Resources Management, Environmental Compliance Officer

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

EXAMPLE PLANNING CLEARINGHOUSE

QUESTIONNAIRE

Example Questions Related to Wild and Scenic River Criteria and Considerations

The following questions would be used to assist park management with implementation of the *Merced River Plan* for projects that have potential Wild and Scenic River Act implications. This form is intended to highlight portions of the *Merced River Plan* that provide guidance to these kinds of projects. (Note: in the questions below, "affects" means both beneficial affects and adverse affects.)

- If the project occurs within the river corridor, would the project be compatible with the corresponding management zone?
- If the project occurs within the River Protection Overlay, would the proposed action be compatible with the goals of the River Protection Overlay and its prescription?
- Would the project be consistent with the classification of that river segment?
- Would the project be considered a "water resources project" under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (i.e., projects that occur within the bed and banks of the Merced River), thereby requiring a Section 7 determination?
- Would the project affect an Outstandingly Remarkable Value of the segment of river that the project occurs in (see generic Outstandingly Remarkable Value questions below)?
- Would the project affect the **scientific** ORV (i.e. affects the value of the largely undeveloped watershed as a baseline for scientific research, for example disturbing a long-term research plot may adversely affect this ORV)?
- Would the project affect the **scenic** ORV (i.e., be visible from the river or its banks or obstruct views from the river or its banks, for example enhancing the view of Half Dome from Sentinel Bridge may beneficially impact this ORV)?
- Would the project affect the **geologic** processes/conditions ORV (i.e., alter unique river-related geologic features, for example altering the Bridalveil Moraine during construction may adversely affect this ORV)?
- Would the project affect the **recreation** ORV (i.e. affect the *spectrum* of recreational opportunities in the segment; the *quantity* of recreational opportunities is not part of the recreation ORV)?

- Would the project affect a **biological** ORV (i.e., affect a river, riparian, meadow, or wetland habitat or associated special-status species, for example removing a trail in a riparian zone may beneficially affect this ORV)?
- Would the project affect a **cultural** ORV (i.e., affect a river-related National Register property, for example rehabilitating a historic trail may beneficial affect this ORV)?
- Would the project affect a **hydrologic** processes ORV (i.e., affect the hydrologic processes of the Merced River such as water quality, free-flow, steep gradients, cascades, unique hydrologic conditions, for example removing a structure from the floodplain may beneficial affect this ORV)?